THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S, ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In fact, the average yield per hectare of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco crop in 2004-05 season is projected to be higher than that in 2003-04 season.

(c) The Tobacco Board is providing incentives to FCV tobacco growers in the Karnataka light soil regions through supply of briquettes, barn insulation as an energy conservation measure and other extension programmes.

Export of Software Services

1949. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken or propose to take for inclusion of software services under the guidelines issued for assistance for development of exports infrastructure and other allied activities scheme by which funds would be allocated on the basis of export performance excluding the export of software services, which is fetching more foreign exchange reserves, inspite of having a very poor infrastructure which is a major deterrent for its development; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The guidelines of the Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) Scheme provide for allocation of funds to States/Union Territories on the basis of their export performance based on State-wise data of exports of goods conpiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S). Export of services, including software services, is not taken into account for allocation of funds because such data on services is not available State-wise.

India's stand on WTO talks

1950. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India could hardly make a common cause with US or European Union on its association with WTO;

(b) whether he would also agree that the question of protection of community of farmers was very delicate and needed careful handling; and

(c) if so, whether he would take the house into confidence on this vital question?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. The General Council of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) adopted a Decision on the Doha Work Programme on 1 August 2004 by consensus of all its Members.

(b) and (c) Throughout these negotiations, Government has been taking up specific areas of concern to India for appropriate resolution in the drafts on the framework that have been presented at various stages of the negotiations. India has also made concerted and careful efforts with like-minded developing countries, including in the G-20 alliance on agriculture and the G-33 alliance on Special Products, in order to ensure, *inter alia,* that the elements and principles incorporated in the agreed framework on agriculture lead to substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries, a credible end date for elimination of their export subsidies, and substantial market access improvements for products of export interest to developing countries. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food security and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs. The *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture* incorporated in this Decision duly address India's interests and concerns.

WTO Talks

†1951.SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.